MONTEREY NEWS

April 2007
VOLUME XXXVII · Number 4

The Town

Important Dates

In preparation for Annual Town Meeting: citizen petitions due April 2; April 14, last day to register for May 5th Town Election; Public Hearing April 19 at 7 p.m. (see "Land," p. 4); Warrant finalized April 19; informational meeting on the budget, April 27, 7 p.m., at the Firehouse.

Community Conversation

The joint meeting held by the Select Board and the Planning Board on February 13, called a Community Conversation about the future of the Monterey School, has had tangible results. Select Board member Jon Sylbert attended the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee meeting on February 15, where he read a letter that went on the record stating that Monterey residents who attended the meeting about the school were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the school in Monterey.

The next move by the Select Board was to meet on March 12 at the Monterey School with Monterey's Building Commissioner Don Torrico and Fred Finkle, the Director of Physical Plant Maintenance for the Southern Berkshire School District. During the meeting a list was compiled of items that need immediate attention.

Maggie Leonard

Monterey's Finest (left to right): David Hamill, Dan Hamill, Del Martin, and Matthew McMahon are recent graduates from the Massachusetts Firefighter Academy. They attended 180 hours of classes, which were held every Tuesday and Thursday for four hours, and one Saturday a month for the past six months. The group began in September and graduated at the beginning of March. Of course the other firefighters in Monterey have experience, but these are the only ones to graduate from the Academy. Fire Chief Ray Tryon is excited about this and very proud of these guys.

The school staff and Mr. Finkle stated that the second floor of the building was not open to the public. The space on the second floor is required to be accessible as per 521 CMR, MA Architectural Access Code. According to Torrico the owner of record should have been required to provide vertical access to the second floor when the landing and stairs were replaced six years ago. He told the Select Board that the Town could seek relief from this requirement by filing for a variance with the Architectural Access Board.

The following list of items needed was submitted to the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee on March 19: a CO detector; two ceiling bathroom fixtures to be hard wired; increase in size of the heating vent to the second bathroom; replacement of bathroom baseboards to meet the floor; seal around PVC vent pipe in bathroom; prep and paint for bathrooms; repair of broken or missing bathroom floor tiles; scraping and painting cubbies in main room. The Building Commissioner also submitted a list: non-compliant stairway and landing with guards that are too low in height; handrails non-compliant due to height and grip size; installation of lighting at both exits; safety glazing required on ingress/egress door to the schoolhouse.

According to Sylbert, who presented the punch list of items to the SBRSD School Committee on March 19, the list was received with equanimity and the District agreed to make the requested repairs. Some of the work will be performed over spring break and some is scheduled to be completed during the summer.

The Budget.

Lots of work is being done on the budget at this time of year in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday May 5, 2007. On March 5 the Select Board worked with Finance Committee members Debra Mielke and Dan Moriarty on various aspects of the budget. One of the initial considerations was in choosing a correct Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for an across-the-board increase for all Town employees and paid appointed employees. The Social Security Administration recommends that the COLA be set at 3.3%. Select Board member Jon Sylbert researched the government Consumer Price Index online during the meeting and found that it is 2.5% nationally and 3.6% for New England. The Select Board and the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to use 3% as the COLA.

Berkshire South Community Center has requested a name change and $2500 for the FY2008 budget. The Executive Director of Berkshire South, Eliza Crescentini, has agreed to attend the annual Town Meeting to explain what the benefits are from these funds, as well as defending the $1900 increase in their budget request.

The Select Board and the Finance Committee discussed the Dog Officer/ Animal Control Officer (ACO) budget. There were some questions regarding the medical expenses line item and folks wondered if the medical expenses were for the dogs or people. A phone call to Nora Hayes clarified that the line item of $167 per month is for health insurance and is based on the fact that she works for three towns. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier was asked to look up what the previous ACO, Marty Clark, was paid. Clark was paid a salary of $1800 and expenses were $920. Of those monies $689 was spent on medical expenses. Clark served five towns in southern Berkshire County. The Select Board and the Finance Committee agreed to raise the salary and lower the expenses for the position, and to remove the health insurance line item. The Select Board unanimously agreed that part-time Town employees cannot be offered health insurance.

Dean Amidon stopped by the March 5th meeting to request that the Finance

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Committee and the Select Board research an upcoming Transportation Bond and contact State Senator Benjamin Downing to see if any financial assistance is available for the federally mandated salt shed proposed for the Town Highway Garage.

During the March 12th meeting the Select Board and the Finance Committee met with Town Treasurer Pat Mielke regarding the Senior Citizen Tax Abatement Program special article. This program matches skilled individuals over the age of 60 with jobs that the Town needs help with. The hours that a person works is calculated at the Massachusetts minimum wage and that amount is subtracted from the person's real estate tax bill. Mielke said that the program is used in Egremont with good results.

During the March 19th meeting the budget items that were being held for more information were discussed and finalized. Select Board member Jon Sylbert made a motion to request to have a debt exclusion question on the ballot to borrow for the salt shed, which was seconded by Wayne Burkhart, and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Story on the Salt Shed

In 1970 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created in response to a growing public demand for cleaner air, water, and land. (That was also the year that Earth Day was established: April 22, 1970.) In 1972 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was created, which soon became known by its more familiar name, the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act began with cleaning up big rivers and demanding compliance from big cities.

Susan Sellew

Since then the Clean Water Act has trickled down, if you will, and moved into Phase II. The EPA is now requiring small towns to deal with their runoff into what is known as "receiving waters." This is basically any body of water, from a vernal pond to a raging river, that is the recipient of runoff pollution. Until 2000 municipal facilities were exempt from these requirements. In 2003 municipalities were notified that they were required to file a "No Exposure Plan." This is a plan to have zero runoff pollution to any body of water. Part of that plan was a five-year "Permit to Pollute," which gave the towns five years to install whatever pollution abatement measures were necessary. After that time a municipality must comply or risk the possibility of being fined up to $25,000 per day by the EPA.

In Monterey we use sand and salt on the roads in the winter. The Clean Water Act requires that we cover our store of sand and salt to prevent runoff into surrounding wetlands, rivers, and streams. The Clean Water Act also requires that the loading of sand and salt into trucks take place under cover for the same reason. Also, fuel tanks are required to be under cover, and the same goes for filling fuel tanks and equipment, due to the potential for spillage. Highway Superintendent Maynard Forbes explained that currently drains in the Highway Department Garage empty into a tight tank, which is periodically pumped out. The drained waste pumped out of that tank is considered hazardous waste. >

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So back to the salt shed. The Highway Superintendent has responded to the EPA mandate by researching designs for salt sheds, checking out salt sheds in the surrounding towns that have them, and presenting his findings to the Select Board. The Town of Sheffield has a salt shed and is in compliance with the mandate; the Town of New Marlborough has a salt shed; ditto Great Barrington and Sandisfield. Forbes has estimated the project will cost approximately $320,000, with some of the cost due to state specifications for the project and some due to skyrocketing cost of concrete. Additionally, any municipal construction project that is greater than $50,000 must go through the State Central Register and be put out to bid using state specifications and standards, which means that prevailing wages must be paid and that only a contractor who is pre-certified by the state is able to do the work. This is not something that the state will allow a local carpenter or contractor to do. Forbes thinks that the Town may be able to reduce costs by doing the excavation in-house.

To those who think that we should not use salt on the roads, Forbes responds that Monterey has a "low use" policy and that there has to be a certain amount of salt with the sand or the sand will freeze. Also, sand does not melt ice. (An interesting aside is that there is also a molasses derivative in with the salt and the sand. It makes the salt and sand stick to the road, it acts as a deicer, it sticks to the equipment and protects it from the salt and the sand, and it works at a lower temperature [6º–8º] than salt and sand alone [22º]). Forbes said "This is really the right thing to do whether the EPA mandates it or not." The salt shed will be on the ballot at the annual Town Meeting.

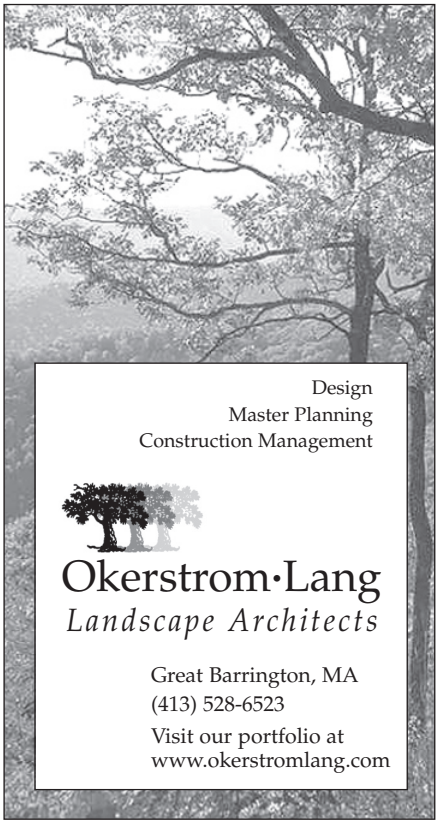
Land

The Select Board received a letter from David Hellman from Hellman & Shearn Attorneys alerting the Board to the Town's right-of-first-refusal option on 76 acres of land located on Tyringham Road near the Monterey/Tyringham line. The property is owned by Barclay and Kerstin Hudson, and the Trustees of the Hudson Family Trust. The 76-acre piece is subject to the provisions of Chapter 61B, which is a conservation/recreation restriction. Under its provisions, the Town has a first-refusal option on the property, and has 120 days to act on that option. The property is under contract for 1.5 million dollars with a limitation that the 76-acre parcel may not be divided into more than four building lots. For the Town to exercise its option it must meet the offer made. It is the Town's responsibility to hold a public hearing on the right-of-first-refusal option to see how the citizens of Monterey would like to proceed. The Select Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. to see if the Town will exercise its option to meet the offered price of the land or forego the option.

Building Department

This reporter was not present for the March 12th Select Board meeting and information about that meeting is derived from the minutes of the meeting. During that meeting the Select Board met with Building Commissioner Don Torrico regarding a written complaint from the owners of 34 Art School Road about information in the *Monterey News* and the reports made to the Select Board by the Building Commissioner. In response to this complaint Town Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe, requested that the *Monterey News* stipulate that it is an independent entity and not an organ of the town. (So stated.) Torrico reported to the Select Board that work has been performed on the premises without the proper permits. Additionally, Torrico provided a printout of a web site that advertises the Art School Road Inn and noted that signs for the Art School Road Inn were at one time posted on the road. At one point the Building Commissioner and the Tri-Town Sanitarian attempted to perform a site visit but were turned away by the owners.

At the March 26th Select Board meeting, Laura Catullo and Sandra Chianfoni of Art School Road met with the Select Board, the Building Commissioner, and



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Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter Kolodziej for an airing of complaints on all sides. Catullo and Chianfoni expressed dismay at the way that their case was handled by the Building Commissioner and discrepancies that they believed were reflected in the minutes of the Select Board meeting and in the *Monterey News*. Catullo and Chianfoni said that allegations were made that they were operating an inn when they say that they were not. According to Catullo and Chianfoni they have been the victims of unscrupulous contractors who either told them that they did not need permits, or lied about being in the process of obtaining a permit. The pair was questioned about the signs that were posted on Art School Road, and Catullo responded that these signs were experimental. Select Board member Jon Sylbert commented that they had not obtained a sign permit either.

Select Board Chair Michael Storch explained that a complaint was brought to the Board that an inn was operating illegally on Art School Road, and the Board requested that the Building Commissioner and the Board of Health investigate. Tri-Town Sanitarian Kolodziej noted that he had spoken to Ms. Chiafoni as Board of Health representative and set up an appointment for a site visit, but that when he, accompanied by the Buildiing Commissioner, arrived for the site visit they were denied access to the home. Ms. Chianfoni said that she had never spoken directly with Kolodziej and that she received his phone message shortly after his aborted visit. Both the Building Commissioner and Kolodziej agreed that they are now clear that the owners are not currently operating an inn.

Laura Catullo asked how the Select Board pursues answers to questions that are not answered on the spot during a meeting. Board Chair Michael Storch responded that the Board dispatches its emissaries such as the Building Commissioner and the Board of Health representative just as they did in this case. Peter Kolodziej added that when people are considering opening a business such as an inn, he needs to stop by and confirm the number of bedrooms, and take a look at the kitchen and anything else that might have to do with food service to the public.

Don Torrico stated that he has had ongoing communications with Catullo and Chianfoni and went on to say, "I don't have any patience any more. I am writing a building code violation." Torrico alleges that a deck was constructed without permits, in addition to plumbing work that was done without permits. Chianfoni said, "These contractors are wolves in sheep's clothing," alluding to the fact that they had counted on the contractors to pull the permits and that this had not been done. Catullo added, "They say that they have the permits in process." Apparently this happened multiple times because Catullo repeated, "There have been many contractors who say they will get the necessary permits."

Select Board member Jon Sylbert said that it is ultimately the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure that the proper permits are obtained. He noted that many of the allegations on both sides are "he said/she said issues and therefore unsolvable." Select Board member Wayne Burkhart expressed his discomfort with the tenor of the proceedings: "At this point we should be listening to the complaint to discover if our procedures are okay, and that we are giving these people every respect and opportunity."

The Select Board agreed that it would be more productive to start clean, if possible, without the "he said/she said" type of allegations. Don Torrico stated, "I am going back to step one and I am going to cite you for violations. You have done work with the heating system, bathrooms, and a deck, and the only permit you have is to replace siding." Catullo said that some of the work did not require a permit according to the advice of their contractors. Board Chair Michael Storch said, "Let's go forward and start today new. When you do a project you need to have a permit on site, in the window where it can be seen, before you start." Board member Wayne Burkhart

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added that the tone of combativeness that was present was "a little off." He went on to say, "I'm discouraged by the way our Building Department is perceived. Going forward I think that we need to see how prospective entrepreneurs can be helped and encouraged. And I'm not so sure that we are there yet."

Laura Catullo said, "We are in agreement in many ways. We want to get work done by reputable people and we have been duped—fooled. We have been told not to apply for permits." Sylbert explained that the only way that the Town can tax properly is if it is aware of new growth. Building permits and inspection certificates are one of the ways that this information is provided to the Assessors. Storch added that if they are unsure if permits are required then they should consult the professionals; the Building Commissioner or the Board of Health. Catullo said that she believed that the contractors should be held equally responsible as the homeowner for the permitting. She also wanted to know if there would be an acknowledgement in the minutes regarding what she believed to be errors. Jon Sylbert asserted that the minutes were accurate.

Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter Kolodziej asked if it would be possible to set up a meeting with himself, Catullo and Chianfoni, and the Building Commissioner for a preliminary visit. Board Chair Storch thanked the two for coming in and clearing the air, and Catullo agreed that the issue was resolved.

Police Department Issues

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus meets with the Select Board each Monday. During the meeting on March 19, Backhaus presented the Select Board with copies of the grant that was awarded to the Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee with the details of the upcoming emergency drills they are planning. The organization has won a grant to perform a pandemic emergency drill with various scenarios. The drill series, called "Hello Birdie," is designed to be a preparation in the event of a pandemic of avian flu. The drills will involve Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Emergency Managers, and Board of Health Representatives, and will involve a wider population with each drill. For example, in the second drill nursing homes, Select Board members, and Elder Services will also participate. The drills have scenario titles. The first, "A Novel Influenza Virus Has Been Identified in the U.S.," will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at the Andrews House in Great Barrington. The second drill is "The Pandemic is Spreading Rapidly," scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, at Saint James Church in Great Barrington. The third drill, "The Pandemic is Acute and Locally Widespread," will be held on Tuesday, May 8, also at Saint James Church in Great Barrington. The final meeting will be a workshop that will critique the drills, with the date to be announced.

Also during the meeting on March 19 Richard Tryon delivered a citizen petition to the Select Board for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The petition asks that the Town vote to direct the Select Board to direct the Police Chief to have a Town Police person on duty to direct traffic in the area of the Monterey General Store on weekend mornings and holidays, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and then again on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend. Tryon also requested that the standing signs that were placed in the cross walk at the Town Hall and the Monterey Kindergarten be put out again. The Select Board said that as soon as the snowplowing season has ended the signs will be put out again.

At the March 26th meeting the Select Board discussed the petition with Chief Backhaus. Select Board member Jon Sylbert said that the petition would not solve the problem, because the problem is

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that there are not enough parking spaces in town and there are too many people, "And this petition won't change that." He went on to say, "There hasn't been an accident in town in years. But if there was, the first person to be hurt would be a police person in the middle of the road." Select Board member Wayne Burkhart said, "The Town needs to decide how to best use the police force."

In a later interview the Chief said that he used to direct traffic in town on Saturdays during "the season," and that as a community enterprise it was helpful to the citizens and a good way to have a friendly police presence in town. He went on to explain that there are other factors to be considered. For one thing, we are a small town and weekends when the local population balloons is the busiest time for the Police Department. To have a cruiser and an officer dedicated to the center of town for three or four hours is to use 100% of police resources during one of their busiest times. The citizen petition offers no flexibility for the Police Department to make decisions about policing. Chief Backhaus asked, "What if it's raining, few people come up from New York, and there is no traffic in town? Are we going to be tied to having to be in the middle of town?"

Chief Backhaus also believes that speeding cars contribute a greater danger to the middle-of-town traffic, and he thinks that discouraging speeding is a more effective safety measure. To this end, there soon will be a radar sign in town to show drivers how fast they are going, a method of increasing awareness that Backhaus reported has been very effective at slowing down drivers. Lastly, the Chief said that it's all a matter of courtesy, and recalled a slogan that the State of Massachusetts used a while back: A little courtesy won't kill you. "That pretty much sums up the whole thing. Slow down through town. Let that person who can't see you coming back out. A little courtesy won't kill you."

Police Blotter

The Monterey Police Department responded to the following items during the month of March: power outage on Friday during the ice storm due to power lines down; vehicle lockout; false alarms at Brookmead Farm, Cronk Road, and Stevens Lake Way; report of a five-month-old puppy lost on Cronk Road (found later that day); abandoned 911 call on Woodland Road due to dialing error; report of two snowmobiles that fell into Lake Garfield off of the point; two false alarms on Cronk Road; assisted with a motor vehicle in Great Barrington; abandoned 911 call on Prescott Lane; alarm call on Main Road; loose dogs picked up and returned to owners; flat tire on the flats; small tree across Tyringham Road cleared; assisted with a medical call on Tyringham Road; pole fire reported on Main Road (Police and Fire Departments found no fire); disabled motor vehicle on Main Road (stuck U-Haul truck); suspicious vehicle on Stevens Lake Way.

This and That

Dean Amidon notified the Select Board that he opposes the idea of moving the public boat ramp on Lake Garfield from its present location to a small parcel on the north side of the beach. The new location would adversely impact his home, which is on property owned by his children. He asked if the Board was planning to acquire the property by eminent domain, and the Board responded that this option had never been entertained or discussed.

Pat Mielke said that it was another banner year for the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days fund raising effort. She would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who help make the drive a success in Monterey.

Ray Tryon notified the Select Board that four members of the Monterey Fire Company graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighter Academy. Matthew McMahon, Dan Hammill, David Hammill, and Del Martin have attended 180 hours of classes; four hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and one weekend per month for the past few months.

— Maggie Leonard

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May 5 Town Election Slate

Only two town officer positions are being contested in this year's town election, which will be held on Saturday, May 5, day of the Annual Town Meeting. Candidates for the contested seats are listed below, followed by the slate of candidates for the uncontested seats (D = Democrat; R = Republican; U = Unenrolled [no party affiliation]; inc. = incumbent). All unopposed candidates have been endorsed by both the Democrat and Republican caucuses. Letters (with pictures when available) from candidates for the contested seats are printed in the following columns, followed by introductory letters from unopposed non-incumbent candidates.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Scott Jenssen (D, endorsed by D & R)
Stephen Rose (D, by petition)

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Susan Cooper (D)
Robert Lazzarini (D, endorsed by R)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Stan Ross (U, inc.)

Board of Health (3 years)
Bob Annelli (R, inc.)

Cemetery Committee (3 years)
Steve Pullen (D)

Constable (3 years)
Ray Tryon (D, inc.)

Finance Committee (3 years)
Maryellen Brown (R)

Library Trustees (2 seats, 3 years)
Carolee (Mickey) Jervas (D)
William Marsh (U, inc.)

Town Election Candidates Forum Set for April 25

The *Monterey News* is again sponsoring a Candidates Forum for candidates running in the upcoming May 5th town election. The forum will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Candidates in the two contested races (Select Board, Board of Appeals) will be on hand to discuss their candidacies and answer questions.

All citizens are encouraged to attend. This will be your chance to find out what the candidates for these important offices think about issues facing the town. Informed voters make better decisions.

Refreshments will be available.

The *Monterey News* plans to continue the Candidates Forum as an annual April event if the response justifies doing so. Please encourage us by attending.

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc (R, inc.)

Park Commission (2 seats, 3 years)
Diana Piepho (D)
Valerie Zantay (D, inc.)

Planning Board (3 seats, 2 5 yr, 1 3 yr)
Maggie Leonard (R, inc.)
Brian Puntin (U, inc.)
Alan Salamon (U, 1 year)

Tax Collector (3 years)
Anne Marie (Mari) Enoch (R, inc.)

Treasurer (3 year)
Pat Mielke (D, inc.)

Tree Warden (1 year)
Roger Tryon (D, inc.)

Statements of Candidates in Contested Town Races

Select Board

Scott Jenssen (D, endorsed by D & R)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that has been given to me for the upcoming election for Selectman for the Town of Monterey. I was born in Monterey in 1959. My parents had been residents here since the mid 1940s. I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to have been brought up in such a great town as Monterey. If I am elected to the position of Selectman I will bring to the position my interests, as well the interests of the people who take the time to seek me out and let me listen to their concerns regarding the direction that our town is taking. I am pro volunteer fire dept. I am for responsible enforcement of speeding laws, and I have interests in protecting our lakes from overpopulation, pollution. I am concerned in regards to our remaining open spaces. I am for the responsible placement of cell towers. I have an excellent working relationship with our current building inspector/commissioner and will avail myself as a liaison between the citizens and his office to try and smooth out any areas of misunderstanding.

I ask that any and all residents of Monterey contact me so I can meet with them to discuss their issues on a face-to-face basis. Through this type of contact I will be able to assist changes for the betterment of our town.

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Stephen Rose (D, on ballot by petition)

My name is Stephen Rose and I'm 44 years old. I have a passion for town government and a need to be involved in my community. I have fresh ideas, energy, time, and experience. I want to be your next Selectman.

I was encouraged to run for Selectman by many people after I expressed an interest and the caucus results were so close (Republican: 7 Rose, 9 Jenssen; Democratic: 13 Rose, 14 Jenssen). I, and others too, feel that a position as important as Select Board should offer a choice. In this year's caucuses three votes almost made this an uncontested race.

I've been a photojournalist for the past 23 years. Currently I am employed as a news photographer for the *Boston Globe,* the *New York Times,* the *Berkshire Eagle* and the Associated Press. This job allows me the time to devote to public service, for which I have always had enthusiasm.

I grew up in the Berkshires, graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School in 1980, attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and received a Bachelors Degree in Political Science in 1984. In the summer of 1984 I was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to discuss the future of democracy with European students at the University of Colorado.

I moved to Monterey from Falmouth, Massachusetts, where I worked as a photographer for 18 years and where I participated in community affairs. I gained experience as a town Democratic Committee member, a town meeting member, and president of the Falmouth Fishermen's Association. In Monterey my town government experience continued when I was appointed, then elected to the Planning Board with the support of both parties.

I enjoy serving on the Planning Board. It has been very interesting and I have learned a lot. Other than planning, I have an interest in environmental issues, community-related politics, and regional issues. I want the Select Board to work more closely with our surrounding towns to find solutions to regional issues such as schools, economic development, affordable housing, and communication towers, to name a few. An example of this might be for the Monterey Selectmen to get together with the Great Barrington Select Board and work toward obtaining a cell phone tower that provides service for both towns. Monterey needs cell service and I want to find a way to make that happen. Working with our neighboring towns to provide this service would be beneficial to the whole region.

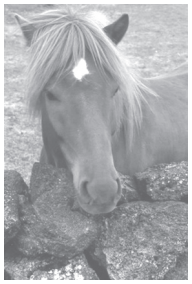
A responsive and proactive Select Board is key to a smooth running government. I believe in good communication, efficiency, simplicity, and conciseness. I am accessible, flexible and willing to communicate promptly. I am a consensus builder, and a good communicator. I would like to improve communication and responsiveness between boards, and with the Monterey citizens. I believe the Selectmen should be easily accessible.

It is fair to say that the west side of Monterey is poorly represented in town government. I live in the Lake Buel neighborhood, and I see a lot of change happening around me. I believe balance is healthy for government. As Selectman, I would bring geographical balance to the board, and could work to get people west of Swan Road and in the Lake Buel neighborhood more active and interested in our town.

Monterey faces some environmental issues that are a real concern of mine. The spread of the weed Eurasian milfoil in our lakes, and the spread of the flowering weed purple loosestrife in our wetlands are disturbing. I would like to work with environmental groups to better control the spread of these invasive plants.

Monterey is blessed with mountains, lakes, and rivers. I understand the importance of the Scenic Mountain Act, and the environmental relationship between the mountains and the watersheds. I believe strongly in continued maximum protection of our natural resources. I want to work toward maintaining our rural beauty. I want to protect the farms, lakes, rivers, dirt roads, and forestland that make Monterey the beautiful place to live that it is. I believe there is a correlation between environmental preservation and quality of life. As your Selectman I will work to improve the quality of life in Monterey now, and for future generations.

Please vote for me. I'll get things done.



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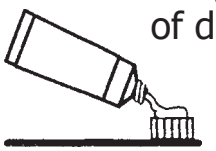
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Board of Appeals

Susan Cooper (D)

Greetings Monterey Residents,

I am the Democratic candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all the townsfolk. My name is Susan Cooper. I am 44 years old and moved to Monterey from West Stockbridge with my family about five years ago. I now live on Griswald Road with my husband, Dr. David Myers, a chemistry professor at Simon's Rock College, and our seven-year-old daughter, Samantha. We chose Monterey because we love its richly rural feel combined with the active sense of community we saw at the beach, the store, and demonstrated by all the well-attended events that town residents organize. We like Monterey very much and I feel that after 5 years of getting the sense of the town, it is time to serve the town.

For those of you who do not know me I would like to say a few words about my background. I am trained as a biologist, and have spent the last 12 years working as an educator. I have taught at the college and high school levels, and now, in collaboration with Jane Burke of the Flying Cloud Institute in New Marlborough, run a series of programs called "Young Women in Science" designed to encourage girls to pursue their interests in science. Those of you with children at Undermountain Elementary School may have heard of the LEGO robotics programs I run in the classroom, also under the auspices of Flying Cloud.

As a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals it would be my role to listen to cases in which there may be some contention. In my view, the town is a commons, with goals set for the community by the community as a whole, and laid out in the form of by-laws, within the context of Massachusetts law. These by-laws help us to govern ourselves as a group, and to lay out our vision of Monterey in the present and for the future. At the same time, individual landowners have the right to enjoy their property. I see the role of the Appeals Board as carefully weighing the interests of property owners and the interests of the town, as expressed in our by-laws. I would approach each case with an open mind, judge it on its own merits, try to be sure to have all of the pertinent facts, and then do everything in my power to reach decisions that are as fair and reasonable as is humanly possible.

I look forward to serving the town in this capacity, and I believe that I will serve the town well. And please, whomever you vote for on Town Meeting Day, please do **come and vote** at the Monterey Firehouse on May 5th!

ॐ

Robert Lazzarini (D, endorsed by R)

For me, the Board of Appeals is hallowed ground—it is Monterey's only judicial board. The Board considers requests for Special Permits or Variances to our Bylaws and in arriving at its decision, it measures the requests against the restrictions imposed by the Town Bylaws. While this sounds straightforward and easy, it is not. The Bylaws are not always completely explicit and multiple interpretations are often possible. The Board hearings are very formal, often involving lawyers, architects and engineers and are tape recorded to preserve a verbatim record. The Boards decisions frequently determine a citizen's ability to alter his or her home or how he or she may use the property. This is heavy stuff! I believe that my previous experience as a member of the Board of Health and as an alternate member of the Board of Appeals (detailed below) has provided me with the background and understanding to take on the responsibilities of full membership on the Board.

In 1988 I was recruited from Maryland to New York City to become the Founding

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Director of a new biomedical research center. After arriving in the city, my family and I quickly realized how important a rural setting was to our lifestyle and we looked for a primary residence elsewhere. We discovered Monterey in 1989 and have thrived here since.

My participation in town government started in 2000 with my election to the Board of Health. I was Chairman for 2 of the 3 years that I served. That tour of duty was a wonderful crash course on the intricacies of "Title 5" and the Mass. General Laws regulating septic waste disposal and wells. These laws indirectly affected many activities, and detailed knowledge of them proved invaluable to me when I later served as an Alternate to the Board of Appeals. In 2004 I was appointed as an Alternate Member to the Board. As an Alternate I participate in Board hearings when a regular member cannot participate. To date I have participated in about a dozen hearings and the experience has given me a powerful introduction to the deliberations of the Board and the range of interpretations of Monterey's Bylaws that have been used. I've gotten to know "the cast of characters" in these legal dramas—the lawyers, architects and engineers that frequently present the appellant's case and the Board members that decide its outcome. My contributions to the Board's deliberations have been substantive and well received. I have worked well with the other Board members. My commonsense, logical approach, my academic training in problem solving, and my previous experience in Town government have given me unique insights that I contribute to the hearings. When the opportunity appeared to advance from Alternate to Full Member of the Board, I leapt at the chance. I hope that you agree with me that I am well prepared for this job and you will support my bid for this office.

Introductions from Uncontested Candidates

Library Trustees (3 years)

Carolee (Mickey) Jervas

Our library has been moving ahead in an exciting direction in the past few years, the Youth Book Club being just one example of its expansion. I would like to help that growth continue and develop even further. Besides being a lifelong library patron, I have been in business for most of my life and feel that experience will be an asset in helping to manage our library. Overseeing employees, interacting with the public, watching and controlling costs are as important in public service as they are in business. I look forward to serving our community.

Planning Board (1 year)

Alan R. Salamon

My wife, Jane, and I have owned property in Monterey since 1995, initially as "weekenders". For the last four years, however, Monterey has been our primary residence. We enjoy living here fulltime, and have especially enjoyed becoming active in the Berkshire community.

I am a graduate of Williams College ('59) and Columbia Law School ('62) and practiced law in New York for more than forty years, focused in the area of commercial real estate.

I am both pleased and flattered to have been nominated by the Democratic, as well as the Republican Party for this position. The areas of responsibility of the Planning Board, including non-conforming uses, subdivision control, signage, reports to the Board of Appeals with respect to requests for special permits, and the development of a master plan for the town are of interest to me. I also believe my professional experience affords me good insight into these issues.

It has always been my philosophy that members of municipal boards serve for the benefit of the community, and should be responsive to its needs and available to its members, all the while simultaneously maintaining and enforcing the applicable and appropriate procedures, rules and regulations.

If elected, I shall serve the Town of Monterey to the best of my ability.

ॐ

Park Commision (3 years)

Diana Piepho

I'd like to introduce myself as a candidate to serve on the Park Commission. I reside on Beartown Mt. Rd. with my husband, Richard, and our two sons, Judah (12 years old) and Jordan (8 years old). We have been in our home for the past 12 years and previous to that we lived on New Marlborough Rd. for 3 years. I have been a Registered Massage Therapist in Berkshire County for over 25 years, excluding a 6-year "sabbatical" to focus on being mom. Since both our boys have been in school, I have been employed as a substitute teacher and volunteer librarian at their school as well as practicing massage part time.

Monterey has given our family countless hours of fun and activity at the park, beach, and skating rink. We have benefited from the growth and improvement of these facilities from the boys' first steps to just yesterday. My interest in serving on the Park Commission stems from a desire to provide input and support for an aspect of our town from which our family has received consistently over the years. I would be privileged to give back by serving at this time. I anticipate spending many summer days at our beach and would be happy to be there in a more intentionally helpful capacity.

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Planning Board News

The Planning Board held a public hearing during its regular meeting on Thursday March 22, to consider a bylaw proposal to regulate common driveways and also to consider an amendment to the current Monterey Zoning Bylaw Section VII. Non-municipal Educational or Religious Use. C.3. The hearing was sparsely attended; however, the people who did attend provided important feedback and had insightful comments on the proposed bylaws. In addition to the Planning Board, hearing attendees were Richard Tryon, Alan Salamon, Wayne Burkhart, Stephen Enoch, and Eugene Bounous.

Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard opened the hearing by reading the legal notices as per protocol of a Planning Board public hearing. She then read a letter from Highway Superintendent Maynard Forbes, who advised three clarifications for the common driveway bylaw proposal. Forbes recommended that the bylaw state more clearly that applicants for a common driveway permit must still obtain a curb cut permit or "access to a public way" from the Highway Department. He also advised that the bylaw clearly state how the common driveways will address street numbers so that addresses may be easily located. Finally he suggested that we add language that makes it clear that approval of a common driveway does not constitute approval by the Conservation Commission under the Wetland's Protection Act or the Scenic Mountains Act.

Leonard then read a letter from Richard Nault of Northeast Cove Road, who was not able to attend the hearing but wanted to lend his support to the common driveway bylaw proposal. In the letter Nault described the "lack of proper drainage" on Northeast Cove Road and wrote that common driveways constructed to "a required standard would be desirable."

Eugene Bounous, who owns land on Route 23 with 400 feet of road frontage, was present to ask if the common driveway bylaw proposal would relieve him from having to construct a subdivision road on his property in order for his five daughters to build there. The Planning Board responded that the common driveway proposal states that lots served by common driveways must have road frontage as stated in the Monterey Zoning Bylaws. If more than two lots are to be served, then a subdivision road must be constructed and the common driveway proposal would give no relief to that situation.

Richard Tryon suggested that there be a mechanism for a second opinion, if necessary, to judge where the optimum placement for a curb cut should be. Tryon noted that often property owners are more familiar with their property and sight distance issues than the Highway Superintendent, and that if there is disagreement then there should be recourse with a second opinion. Tryon also asked that the Planning Board "not complicate these driveways to the point where they require an engineer" because "it keeps ballooning the cost of building." Planning Board member Brian Puntin said that his only problem with that is that some people will "slap down six inches of bank-run gravel to get the trucks in for building, and then there are long-term problems down the road."

Stephen Enoch suggested that the Planning Board add language to the bylaw that makes a distinction between new construction of a common driveway, and repairs to an old driveway that has a grandfathered status. Enoch suggested that if there were an expansion or extension of the existing driveway then the common driveway regulations would kick in. He also asked that the proposed regulations not ask individual homeowner to do more engineering than the town does with their road projects.

Wayne Burkhart agreed with Enoch and said that the proposed requirements, i.e., width, processed gravel, and 12% grade limit, might be setting a stricter standard than existing town roads. He then amended his comment to mean the old town roads and not newly constructed roads in town. Burkhart stated that he is not opposed to this initiative but cautioned that when there is a major bylaw proposal it needs to be clear who does what, i.e., the Building Inspector and the Highway Superintendent, and how the standards of the bylaw are applied. Planning Board member Janet Cathcart explained that the bylaw calls for the Building Inspector to sign off on the permit since that person also issues the building permits and the certificate of occupancy (C.O.).

Alan Salamon noted that the bylaw calls for the driveway to be completed

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prior to any construction beginning, and there was some discussion about whether it is better to put in a substantial driveway prior to building. Planning Board member Brian Puntin stated that when a road is correctly constructed trucks and heavy equipment driving over the road compact it and are not detrimental to the driveway. He also noted that the driveway should be constructed prior to building so that if there is an accident on the construction site an ambulance can get there. Salamon said that in his opinion the driveway should be constructed to a certain standard to obtain a building permit, and then finished to a higher standard in order to get a C.O.

Salamon also asked if it would be possible for a lot with less than 200' of road frontage to have access to a common driveway. Leonard noted that the current draft of the bylaw states that each lot must have 200' of frontage on an approved town road. Burkhart noted that this would exclude grandfathered lots with less than 200' of frontage. Salamon suggested that the language be changed to read "All lots served by a common driveway must have such frontage as required by the Monterey Zoning Bylaws." Dick Tryon wanted it clarified that no movement was afoot to lower the zoning requirements for road frontage.

Burkhart asked if the Planning Board would consider changing the bylaw to begin requiring standards with three driveways instead of two, to create a "safety valve for small projects." Burkhart also stated that the requirements for easement agreements and maintenance associations should be clarified, "That's really what this bylaw is all about and without the right agreements it won't be helpful, it will only be obstructionist." Burkhart bridled at the idea of having to get a lawyer to create such an agreement. Planning Board member Cindy Hoogs disagreed: "If someone has four lots, they are going to sell those lots for a lot of money. That person is going to have the financial wherewithal to go to an attorney and have these agreements created. It should not be incumbent upon the Planning Board to create maintenance agreements." She also noted that these agreements are common and said, "It's not as if an attorney has to re-create the wheel here."

The Planning Board also presented an amendment to the existing bylaw Section VII.C. 3. Non-municipal Educational or Religious Use, which states the following: "Setback—two-hundred foot (200') buffer surrounding the property to be kept undeveloped except for entrance and exit roadways." Cindy Hoogs explained to the group that the existing language resulted in Gould Farm having to seek a variance each time they wanted to do a construction project because the parcels that comprise the property have a road, Gould Road, going through them. Ostensibly this would require every construction project at Gould Farm to be 200' back from the road. This constitutes an unnecessary hardship for Gould Farm and in the past they have received a variance. The new language, as follows, would alleviate the necessity of seeking a variance: "Setback—two-hundred foot (200') buffer surrounding the property to be kept undeveloped except for entrance and exit roadways, driveways and walkways, measured from the boundary of any abutter, but excluding roadlines where both sides of the road are owned by the educational use." Planning Board member Stephen Rose objected to the term "educational use" and recommended that the board find wording that is "less awkward." Burkhart noted that New England Keswick, a camp on Chestnut Hill Road, has a similar situation but he did not think that this change would apply to their situation.

The hearing was adjourned at 9 p.m. The Planning Board appreciates the valuable input from those attending.

— Maggie Leonard, Chair
Monterey Planning Board

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Community Center News

While we await a ruling from the probate court on the Town's request for review of the conditions of Edith Wilson's will, we have been researching green building methods and materials in anticipation of designing the Monterey Community Center.

We have learned a good deal about the remarkable success of the green design practiced in the new Monument Valley Middle School in Great Barrington. In designing the school, the planning team decided on a number of sustainable methods for energy conservation and production. To start with, they made sure to orient the building north/south to get optimal "daylight harvesting" in addition to maximizing the efficiency of the photovoltaic array that produces electricity from the sun. Window placement and design was carefully managed for best energy efficiency, light, and ventilation. They utilized five different wells up to 150' deep for a geothermal system for energy conservation in heating and cooling. In addition the design called for strategies such as using insulation 2.5 times that required by code and heat recovery units that save energy in the ventilation system.

Already the results are spectacular. The first year the gas use (heating) was 13.3% below projections, and the electricity purchased (lighting, operations) was 23.4% below the projected level. Another impressive figure is the annual consumption of BTUs per square foot of floor area; the figure for the average rate in New England is 87K, while MVMS used only 54.1K.

This is very exciting to see right here in South Berkshire. We are continuing to assemble information and to contact those with experience in these fields as we assemble our portfolio of plans for the Community Center.

— Joe Baker

Registering to Vote in May Town Election

The last day to register to vote in the Town Election on May 5th is Saturday, April 14. Anyone can register at the town offices during the Town Clerk's regular hours, 9:30 to 12:30 Saturdays. There will be additional hours for registration on Saturday, April 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the town offices and 7 to 8 p.m. The evening location is still to be announced but will be posted at the Post Office, Roadside Store and in Town Hall and will be available by calling the Clerk at 528-5175. It might be at a private residence.

People who prefer to register by mail can get the forms from the Post Office (on the east side wall). Those forms need to be postmarked no later than April 14.

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Applications

The McLaughlm-Wilson Scholarship Fund was created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her longtime friend Marjorie McLaughlin. Ms. Wilson, who was a painter, sculptor and designer, and a mainstay in the community, moved to Monterey in 1942. The scholarship was created to assist in a significant way Monterey children who want to pursue a post-secondary education.

Preference is given to students entering their first year of higher education after high school. This may include students at vocational schools, trade schools, apprenticeships, colleges or graduate schools. The applicant must have physically lived within Monterey during most of the last two years of high school. An exception may be made for boarding school students whose family residence is in Monterey and for those who are attending higher educational institutions.

Application forms are available at the Monterey Town Hall and Monterey Library, as well as at Berkshire Taconic Foundation's office. Completed applications must be received by 5 p.m. May 1 at Berkshire Taconic's office, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

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Ellen Pearson to Speak at April Community Dinner

What a treat we had at the March 7th Potluck Dinner with the Chord Sharks, the award-winning barbershop quartet, which performed an eclectic mix of traditional as well as Beatles tunes. They were very warmly received, and we hope they will come back again next year. We would also like to thank the Coffee Club for the delicious ham, well prepared by Steve Pullen.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be on April 11 at 6 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Ellen Pearson will speak, and share many photographs, about her recent trip to China (her preview follows).

All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a plate and silverware for yourself. We will also discuss the possibility of continuing the potlucks through the summer. Bring ideas!

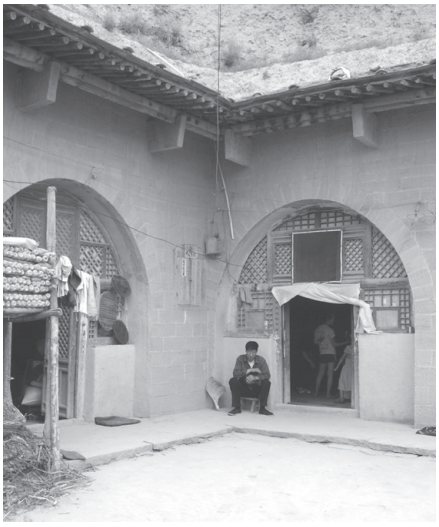
— Kyle Pierce

My Stay in a Chinese Cave

In July 2006 I traveled to Shaanxi Province, Northern China, on an Earthwatch Expedition to document the culture in an ancient village of cave dwellers, called Dang Jia Shan. The villagers are being relocated from a place where their families have lived for centuries to new housing on a traveled road. The Chinese government justified the move on the basis of "difficult living conditions, water shortage, and poor road conditions."

The director of our expedition, Anrong Dang, who grew up in Dang Jia Shan, is concerned about the cultural and lifestyle change facing the villagers. Earthwatch volunteers were enlisted to create a record of the village that can be used as a reference to examine how the villagers will adapt to their new environment and to what extent their cultural tradition will survive.

I signed up for the team that was asked to investigate "Songs and Dances" of the village. I got way more than I bargained for. Seven volunteers, including me, lived in caves dug into the "yellow earth," 400 years before, were fed and entertained by the cheerful extended family in our courtyard (photo), and were privy to the songs, children's games, and agricultural practices of the entire village. The caves maintain a moderate temperature: cool in the hot summer, warm in the winter. We traveled to nearby towns and cave villages, some of which had housed the infamous Mao, to explore village cultures, folksongs, religious ceremonies, Buddhist and Dao temples, and folkdances. We ate well; we witnessed indiginous crafts, including paper cutting, basket making, weaving, local crafts, and tofu preparation. We hung out with the families in Dang Jia Shan and we visited the new apartments they are creating in anticipation of the relocation.



Ellen Pearson

My presentation will focus on the existing village, its integration and seamless culture, and the question of whether this amazing system of life will be able to continue in a new place without ancestral graves and rituals, room to grow crops and livestock, and connection with family. The elders will not be provided with new housing, even though they have been the ones who raised the children of their sons and daughters while they go to cities to work. Medicinal herbs are collected from the yellow earth and bartered for trade in the cities. Livestock are grazed on the slopes. Crops are raised on terraced fields. How is this going to work in the new location?

Come and see my slides and ponder this yourself. China is destroying much of its ancient heritage in favor of modernization. Should this be happening?

— Ellen Pearson

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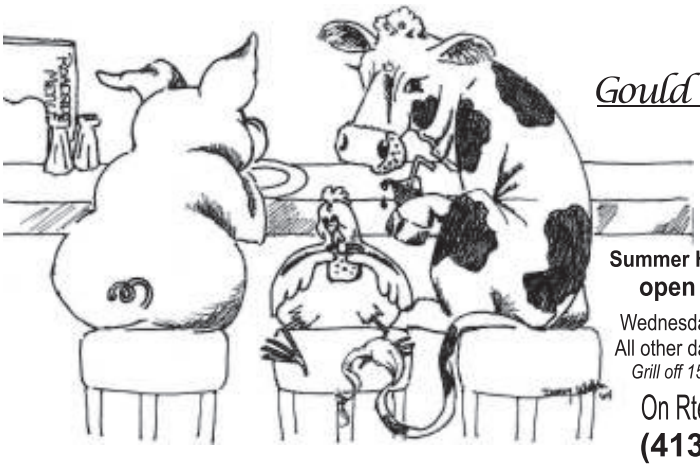

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Monterey Library Notes

Denise Andrus will be back again for another story and craft program on Saturday morning, April 14, at 10:30 a.m. Bring your children and join in the fun.

The youth book discussion group will be meeting Monday, April 2, and the final meeting of the year will be on May 7, when we will have our pizza party hosted by the Monterey General Store. There was a close election in March for the Massachusetts Children's Book Award. In a very close vote *Thunder from the Sea* by Joan Hiatt Harlow edged out *The Conch Bearer* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Other vote getters included *Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson, *The Anybodies* by N. E. Bode, *Gifts from the Sea* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, *Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Munoz Ryan, *Shredderman* by Wendelin Vab Draanen, and *The Tale of Desperaux* by Kate DiCamillo. (For the children's reviews, see next column.)

Though more people in town have been able to obtain DSL, many of us are still without. The library has DSL, and you can access it in two ways. First, come in when we're open and check out our new public Internet connection with the latest in widescreen monitor size. You may print off this computer for 20¢/page. The other way is to bring your wireless capable laptop to the center of town. If we're open you are welcome to come in, find a seat, and browse the web. If we're not open, you're welcome to find the signal, identified as Monterey Library, which does not require a webkey, and stay in your car or find a place to sit wherever the signal reaches.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Children's Book Discussion Group: News and Reviews

Thanks to the Monterey Library and support from the Monterey Cultural Council, we have been able to continue our children's book discussion group this year. Our group has grown since last year, and we now have fifteen children who meet once a month at the library. This year we again participated in the Massachusetts Book Award Program, and everyone who read at least five books from the master list was eligible to vote for a favorite book. All of the children read the minimum number of books, and several read almost all of them! I was able to persuade many of the children to take time out from vigorous campaigning for their favorite books to write these short reviews. All of the books are available at the Monterey Library.

— Franny Huberman

Thunder from the Sea, Joan Harlow

I read *Thunder from the Sea*. It is about a boy who wants a dog and a family more than anything in the world and I really loved it. I found it very inspiring, amazing and exciting. This book is fabulous and I suggest you read it. — Lily Chapman

Thunder from the Sea is about a boy who finds and falls in love with a dog. The boy, Tom, is being adopted by two wonderful people. My favorite part is when the adoptive mom has a baby. Meanwhile, Tom goes through a rough time, anxious about whether he can stay with his new parents and if he can keep his dog. It's a very exciting, good book. — Sophie Linscott

I really liked *Thunder from the Sea*. It was one of the best books I ever read. My favorite part is where they find Thunder. This story was about love — love between the dog and the boy and the love within the family. I hope you will like it too.

— Lucy Spieler

Becoming Naomi Leon, Pam Ryan

This book is funny and a good story. I would recommend this book for anyone who is up to a story of someone leaving their family and other interesting things.

— Emma Mielke

Mrs. Roopy Is Loopy, Dan Gutman

A. J. goes to school. He doesn't like to read but he likes trick bikes and monsters. Suddenly he gets a new librarian. But, when his class visits the school library they're in for a surprise! Their new librarian, Mrs. Roopy, acts and looks just like George Washington! I would not recommend this book because it is boring.

— Joe Makuc

The Conch Bearer, Chitra Divakaruni

The Conch Bearer is a fascinating tale about a boy who embarks on an exciting journey to the Secret Valley. It is a mixture of magic and suspense.

— Morwenna Boyd

The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo

Fabulous plot, thrilling adventure, and shocking surprises. Will Despereaux live happily ever after?? — Alyssa Mielke

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The Outcasts of 19 Schuler Place, E. L. Koningsburg

The Outcasts of 19 Schuler Place is about a girl named Margaret and her uncles. Her uncles have spent their life building three towers in the backyard. When Margaret finds out that the town is going to tear the towers down she tries to stop them. I thought that this was a really good book. — Maura Folmer

Real Lucky Charm, Charissa Richardson

The Real Lucky Charm is about a ten-year-old girl named Mia. She has a twin named Marcus. One of her favorite things to do is to play basketball. Marcus plays basketball. Mia always helps Marcus get ready for his games. One day she sees a sign that says Wanted: a few good girls. "I didn't know we could sign up for a girls' basketball team!" says Mia. She signs up for the girls' basketball team. Soon after she signs up for the team her dad comes home early from work and he has a bag in his hands. He brings the bag into the family room and takes out a box and says, "This is for you Mia." He gives the box to her and she tears off the wrapping, opens the box and finds a little gold charm shaped like a basketball. If you want to find out what happens when she gets the charm you will have to read this book. I really, really liked this book because at the end I think it was really funny. — Ella Carlson

The City of Ember, Jeanne DuPrau

Although it is unforeseeable at first, *The City of Ember* grows to become a tale of epic proportions. This riveting story follows two young adults living in a mysterious subterranean city led by a corrupt mayor. As the metropolis is too dark to grow many important foods, dwellers rely on ancient stores of supplies. But, these supplies are running out. Then, an odd message is found. Does it hold the secret? I recommend that you read this book. —Jonah Carlson

The Star of Kazan, Eva Ibbotson

This book is about a girl named Annika. She has never had a birthday; instead she celebrates her found day, the day that Ellie and Sigrid found her. She loves her life as a kitchen girl in Vienna, learning how to make the Christmas Carp and shine parquet floors to perfection. But then a strange visitor comes to claim her and take her away. This strange woman takes Annika to a cold drafty castle in the country. Annika's mother sends her to a school for noble girls. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves adventure and fantasy. In this book Eva Ibbotson skillfully weaves these two elements together. — Eloisa S. Dean

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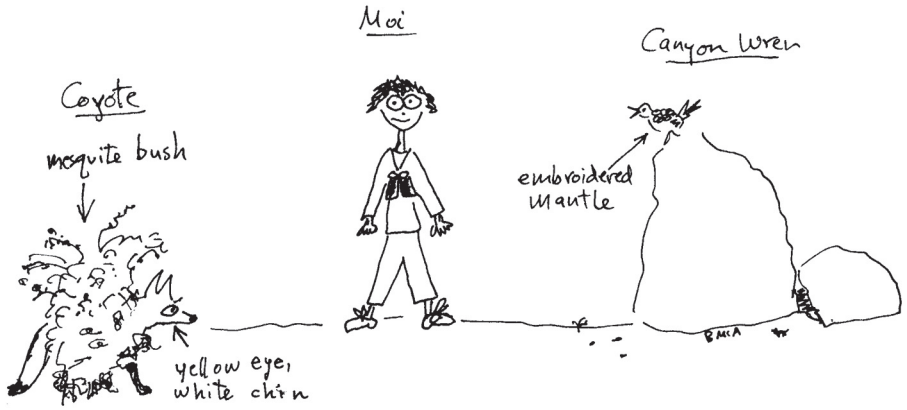
Coyote and the Canyon Wren

Just last week, in Sycamore Canyon, we met the wren. This was southeastern Arizona, only about ten miles from the Mexico line. We'd made big plans, spent major money, spewed carbon so bad I don't know if I'll ever get back on my emissions diet.

Two hours down the Ruby Road out of Arivaca, only about twenty miles, really, but so rough I was worried about the little rental car. Then a couple more hours on foot, until we got to the prettiest rock pool and scrambled onto a ledge where we finally dug out our sandwiches. It was so still, so far from the airport and that world.



On the other side of the pool, appears the wren. She sits on a big boulder facing us, bobbing this way and that, piping away. From a distance she is dark above, snowy on her breast. In the binoculars dapples appear behind her head, spreading onto her shoulders like an exotic cape, an embroidery from another time: something we've forgotten about and need to remember. We need to get back.

I'm thinking, "Why is she carrying on over there? I don't see any other birds about …" Then suddenly she flies right at us. She dodges at the last nanosecond, and I whip my head around just in time to see her slip inside a big crack in the rock wall right behind us. It's her nest! She has been sitting over there fretting because we appeared in her way, blocking her path, stopping her from her job. After taking fifteen minutes of optical scrutiny and puzzled admiration from us, she's had enough and decided to move forward. Now she's only three feet away, but she has vanished. We don't see her again.

Blinding realization, almost pathetic relief. It was *us*, but it's okay. We understand in an instant her problem, our intrusion, and her acceptance after all, or at least her ability to carry on. We seemed so weird at first, but in the end there are eggs to lay, bugs to snatch, more sparkling mantles to encode. Takes more than a couple of folks from Massachusetts off their carbon diet to stop this mama.

That's how it seems. That's how it has always seemed. And yet, when I join my own race, out on the freeway, that creepy sickness returns, that fear. I'm afraid of myself and my kind. I saw the way the coyote looked over his shoulder at me in the Tucson Mountains just before easing into the mesquite and creosote bush scrub. His white chin, slim legs, ears a little askew like maybe he had a few ear mites or maybe he was picking up some transmission from somewhere, something I have been straining to hear. Maybe if I could shake the mites out of my own ears I could get it and it would be simple: walk away from those boxes you made. Turn off that metal monster and leave it, get out in the glory. Fly into the rock wall, melt into the cactus, remember where you live!

— Bonner J. McAllester

Hidden Photos Presentation

In preparation for the Monterey photo contest this Memorial Day weekend, the Monterey Cultural Council will host a talk by photographer Arthur Hillman titled "Hidden Photographs" on Saturday, April 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Monterey Meetinghouse.

This presentation will explore some of the ideas, choices, and approaches involved in the creation of fine art photographs in black-and-white and color. Professor Hillman will discuss questions about why we photograph, what we photograph, and how we photograph, using many New England images he made over the years and his current photographic work from Italy to highlight the discussion.

Arthur Hillman is a photographer, printmaker, designer and teacher who has exhibited his prints for over forty years. His work has been presented in twenty one-person shows and in many national print exhibitions and group exhibits. His silver gelatin photographs, digital prints, photo silk screen prints, and artists' books appear in collections throughout the country. He received a B.F.A. from the Philadelphia College of Art in 1966 and an M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1968. He taught at the Massachusetts College of Art from 1968–1974 and for the past thirty-two years as a member of the visual arts faculty of Simon's Rock College of Bard.

If you are thinking about submitting a photo for the contest, or if you appreciate and want to learn more about the art of photography, this event is for you. No reservations are required, it is free, and everyone is invited. For information call Joe Baker at 413-528-9385.

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Summer Internships at Bidwell House

The Berkshire Taconic Foundation has awarded The Bidwell House Museum a one-thousand-dollar grant to fund high school student summer internships in Museum Studies. The program provides a $200 stipend for several teenagers to work at the museum in July or August. The education grant allows the museum to renew its commitment to teach students colonial history from the venue of a historic 1750 home and to train young people to give tours of the facility.

Students will shadow experienced docents for several days and interact with the staff in discussions of colonial lifeways in the Berkshires. The Bidwell House is a colonial museum that uses the history of the house and its 196 acres of land to re-create the demographics, economics, political and military history, and daily life of early settlers to the region. Interns will be introduced to colonial architecture, cataloging, exhibitions, marketing, public relations, and fund-raising for nonprofits.

In the second week of the internship, students will represent the museum in all aspects of museum life: reception of guests, collection of fees, giving tours and using museum software.

The museum opens on Memorial Day and will be open through the summer from Thursdays to Mondays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. High school volunteers are also sought for work in a heritage garden and flower gardens. Participants in the garden work will create their own time schedule through the summer and work with staff toward the fulfillment of school and church volunteer work.

Application forms will be mailed to interested students the last week of April and are due at the Bidwell House, Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245 by May 14. Students should call the museum at 413 528 6888 and leave their name, address, high school affiliation, grade and telephone number. Parental or guardian permission and an interview are required. Announcement of students selected for the internship will be made on May 25th.

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Free Ballroom Dance Lessons

Calling all Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers fans! Even if you don't know your left foot from your right, here's your chance to learn the basic steps and rhythms of ballroom dancing while having lots of fun in the process. Have you ever watched one of the ballroom dancing shows currently on television and wondered how those dancers do what they do? Berkshire County dance instructors Tom Trimarchi and Susan Rockefeller of Quintessential Dance will show you, with four weeks of ballroom dancing lessons beginning April 19th. Classes will take place at the Monterey Fire Station on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 19th and 26th and May 3rd and 10th. These classes are for those who have never danced, as well as those wishing to brush up on their skills. Both singles and couples are welcome.

The classes are limited to the first 24 Monterey residents to sign up, so call soon. To register or for more information call Tom Trimarchi at: 1-413-822-1600 or Susan Rockefeller at 528-0182 (days).

The classes are free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council.

Jonah Carlson Wins Geography Bee

Jonah won the homeschool/school level National Geographic geography bee, which was held at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington in January. He then took a qualifying test and scored well enough to qualify to compete in the National Geographic Massachusetts bee held March 30 at Clark University in Worcester. (Only the top scores from the qualifying test advance to the state bee.) On March 30, National Geographic Society sponsors one bee in each state throughout the United States. One winner from each state bee will advance to the national level competition, which will be held in Washington, D.C. in May.

Cultural Council Photo Contest

Memorial Day seems a long way off, but it is not too soon to put these dates on your calendar if you wish to enter or view the Monterey Photo Contest & Exhibition:

April 15: prospectuses with entry forms are available at Town Hall, General Store, Library, or online at www.monterey-ma.org. Anyone can enter and any photographic medium or style is acceptable, but photos must have been taken in Monterey. (Photographers please see prospectus for size limits and other details.)

May 20 and 21: Photo entries with entry forms can be dropped off from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on Sunday or 5:00–7:00 p.m. on Monday in the lower level of the Monterey Meetinghouse. All entries must be framed or matted so they are ready to be hung for display in this location.

May 25: Photo Contest Reception at the Meetinghouse from 5:00–7:00 p.m., with awards ceremony at 6:00.

May 26: Photo Show at the Meetinghouse from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

May 27 and 28: Photo Show at the Meetinghouse, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Pick up all entries between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 28.

If you have questions call Kathryn Roberts at 644-9868 or email Joe Baker at joe@bakerworks.com.

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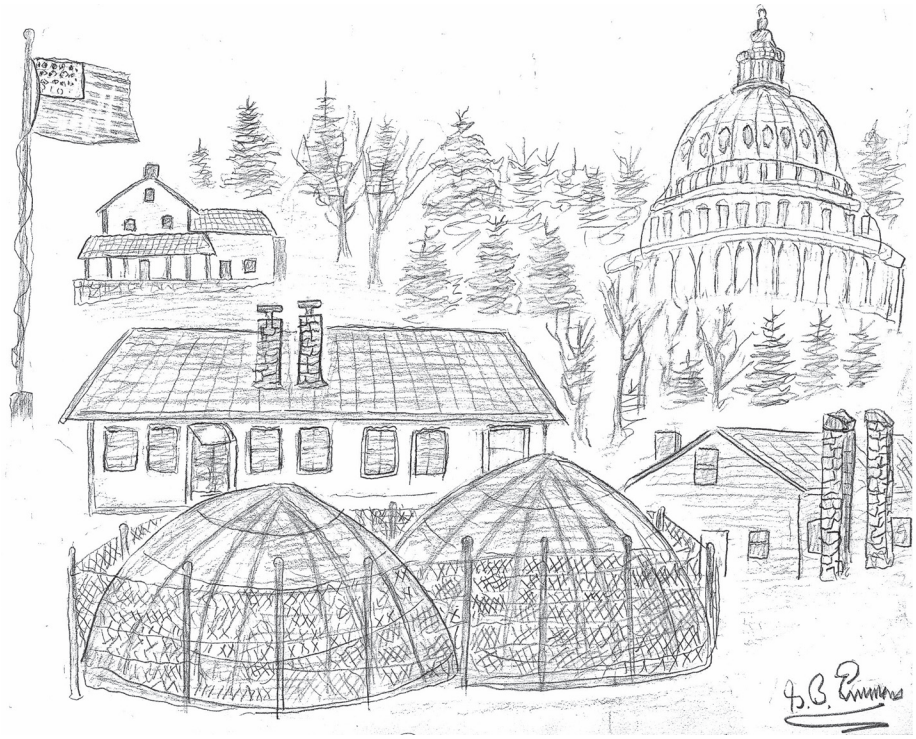

Berkshire Hatchery Volunteers Honored in Nation's Capital

On March 1 in the Nation's Capital, at a prestigious luncheon in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building on Independence Avenue, within view of The Capitol Building, the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation president was ceremoniously presented with a Fisheries & Habitat Partner Award by the Honorable Dale Hall, Director of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Also receiving awards for Conservation Contribution were Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Congressmen John Sullivan (R-Okla.), and Jim Saxton (R-N.J.). A lifetime achievement award was also presented to Martin MacDonald as a Corporate Director of Bass Pro Shops.

Other award recipients included the Nisqualli Indian Tribe of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the mayor of Anchorage Alaska for the Salmon In the City Program. The Berkshire Hatchery was recognized for managing the first all-volunteer-operated National Fish Hatchery in America, which is currently engaged in raising salmon for the Connecticut River Restoration Program.

Later in the day, a gala reception was held at the Library of Congress to celebrate the program begun by President Bush with a four-sided mission emblem, with emphasis on a healthy environment.

- Healthy Fish And Wildlife
- Healthy Habitat
- Healthy People
- Healthy Economies

It was a landmark celebration for the grassroots Berkshire Hatchery program run by volunteers from the Izaak Walton League, the Lake Garfield Association, the Southern Berkshire Regional Schools, and the Western Center for Sustainable Aquaculture—loyal supporters who could not be present, but made it all happen. As the sun went down behind the dome of the Capital Building, the next morning it would shine a little brighter over the canvass covers that protect our hatchery trout and salmon. Lawmakers told me that bills for fish and fisheries almost always receive bipartisan support.

— George Emmons

Highlands Communities Events

Signs of Spring: A Vernal Pool Walk

Saturday, April 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Dry Hill Reservation, New Marlborough | Free, registration required.

It's spring, and many critters have already hit the pool! Join HCI on a walk with TTOR Ecologist Julie Richburg to learn how important vernal pools are and how to identify the pools and their inhabitants. To register, call 413-268-8219

Western Mass Community Preservation Act Conference

April 28 | UMass-Amherst | 8:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m. | Free, registration required.

At this half-day conference, you can get information about the Community Preservation Act, hear about how to implement it, and learn about how other communities across the state are using CPA funds. To register, call Katherine Roth at 617-367-8998.

Making Woods Wildlife Friendly

Saturday, May 12 | 10AM | Notchview Reservation, Windsor | Free, registration required.

Cutting trees to *benefit* wildlife? Sounds strange, but it's true! Join HCI to see how TTOR's Notchview Reservation is managing its forest for wildlife, and learn how timber harvesting could attract more creatures to your own property. To register, call 413-268-8219.

Your Land, Your Choices: New Changes & Opportunities in Chapter 61

Tuesday, May 22 | 7p.m. | (pending confirmation) Buckland Town Hall, Buckland.

Learn about the recent changes to Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B that help reduce property taxes on productive forest, farm, and recreational land. Call to confirm event location: 413-268-8219

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To Dream the Impossible Dream . . .

So once you are in college, doing your work, taking awesome classes, meeting new people, and getting to dream your big dreams, what actually happens? A lot as it turns out. If getting to college is a dream, it only encourages you to dream a little more. So I did and I continue to do so. Last year as a freshman, I sat down for a chat with my advisor about my classes for this year. At the end of our conversation, she asked me about my study abroad plans for junior year. Needless to say, I was somewhat horrified. I hadn't even survived my first year of college, and she was talking about my junior year and most likely the second half of it. I would be writing a thesis just months after that experience ended. I told myself she was crazy, and in my response proceeded to explain that I hadn't entertained any likely places, especially because I was not taking a language. She suggested London as a city of destination, and more specifically the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) as a university choice. As an alumni herself, she thought it would be a great fit for me despite being a hard school and a yearlong commitment. Again, the horror was present and accounted for.

I talked to a friend who was a senior and who spent her junior year there. Of course she gushed about it endlessly. So the seed was planted, but put on the back burner because I had other fish to fry with final exams. This year rolled around quickly enough, and soon I began getting emails from the study abroad office about meetings, study abroad fairs, and the like. I looked at the website for LSE, talked again with a few other students who had also gone there, and started to see some very positive aspects of devoting a year of my life to this experience. Then there was that sense of urgency for applying as soon as possible because they accept on a rolling basis. I spent the entire month of January assembling teacher recommendations, writing my essay, filling out the electronic application, and applying for approval from Middlebury for my plans. One morning, very early I sent in the application and my roommate was on hand to watch me flip out as I was informed I would learn within 7 business days (once my application was complete) if I was accepted.

My teacher recommendation, sent via snail mail, arrived two days after I sent in my electronic application, and five days later I received my acceptance. I had a day of jubilee, and now the whole thing still seems a bit surreal for me. It is the greater dream, and a small assurance that I am allowed to dream of things that do seem above my reach. I have received nothing but encouragement from the college community, including professors, friends, and mentors. I gain strength and faith in my own abilities from my family and friends, who never fail to see my own capabilities even when I am bogged down in the daily chatter of an often-hectic life.

My junior year abroad is now in my sights as a reality. I will spend the year in London, from September through June enrolled in the LSE Department of International Relations. I have not confirmed my classes yet; there are so many enticing options, and it is like the best type of candy shop. Living in London, experiencing city life, and hopefully traveling a bit during spring break present an almost unbelievable reality. If anyone is in London at any point next year, feel free to track me down. It is a whole year of my life, and for a homebody like me, I think it's fair to say I'm going to be a bit homesick at times. I cannot fathom how I will be changed, but I'm already learning that there is no harm in pursuing something that seems out of your grasp. It is this dreaming that helps keep us truly living.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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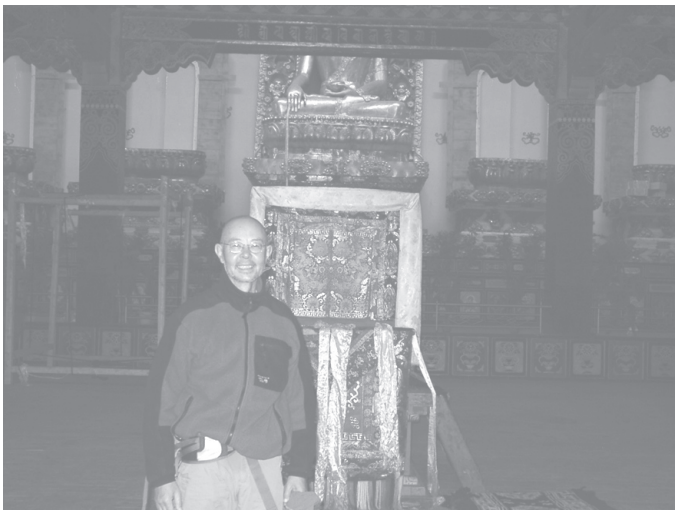

Dr. Philip Bhark in Tibet: In Shechen Monastery and applying healing hands in the clinic.

Letter from Tibet
We Are All Golden Beings

I am doing something I often preach to my patients not to do. I am eating on the run. A crowd of villagers and nomads are pressing on the makeshift clinic door, desperately hoping to be seen. I don't feel comfortable taking a lunch break while the people of Kham (eastern Tibet) are patiently waiting. Some have walked a long distance over high mountain passes for basic medical care. I turn to my interpreter, Dolma, and nod my head, giving her the signal to bring in the next patient. She returns with a handsome Tibetan woman, who looks about thirty years old and smiles gratefully as she limps toward us. Her braided hair is decorated with multiple colorful stones and trinkets. Her long skirt prevents me from seeing her feet. Once she sits and slightly lifts her skirt, I watch her pulling her right leg off her shoe. Her right foot is missing. The stump is loosely wrapped in cloth, which is wet from continuous drainage. We remove the homemade wrap, clean and dress the wound. While working in the field, she was hit by a rockslide, which crushed her right foot. A surgeon from a distant city amputated the foot but had nothing else to offer her. We make plans to connect her with an agency in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, where she can be fitted with a prosthesis.

I look at Dolma, petite with a long braided pony tail, always with a serene smile, being mindfully busy. Here's a twenty-six-year-old Tibetan interpreter who displays the polish of an older and wiser person. Watching her demeanor, it is hard to imagine what she went through so early in her life. As a girl it was difficult for her to get an education. So with the blessing from her father (her mother had died several years earlier), she headed toward Dharamsala, northern India, on foot. It was a thousand-mile journey through some of the most beautiful and difficult tracks on earth. She was able to get a good education and became conversant in English.

The Dalai Lama noticed this unusual young woman and told her, "Tibet needs people like you." She heeded his advice and walked back to Kham, where she was captured by the Chinese authorities and imprisoned. Fortunately, a beneficent being talked the authorities into releasing her after a month of imprisonment. She completed her journey on foot back to her village in Kham. She worked long hours, seven days a week, as a health aide in a nursing home for a minimal wage. (When I walked into the nursing home with Dolma one day, she was mobbed by the residents with hugs and kisses.) Despite her meager pay, she gave her father most of her salary to support him. She then began to work, when there was work, as an interpreter, which paid relatively well compared to many other jobs in Tibet. While reluctant to talk about her past, when asked about it she would quietly recount her experience with no hard feelings. While anger, bitterness, or self-pity was absent, I could feel her pathos when she became silent as she lowered her eyes.

This August, I am returning to a village named Shechen, high (13,000 to 16,000 ft) in the mountains of eastern Tibet. There is a monastery which is home to three hundred monks. The surrounding village, sitting on the side of a mountain slope houses about twenty families. A powerful stream runs between the village and the monastery, bringing glacial waters to the inhabitants and the seasonal nomads. There are several small caves, providing shelter for hermits who have taken a vow of silence, usually for a period of three

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years, three months, three weeks, and three days. I walked into a cave one day to meet a young monk who was practicing compassion for seven years in a cave. He radiated so much light and goodness that it was literally blinding. Just as Lance Armstrong can demonstrate the physical prowess of a human being, this monk was clearly demonstrating the capacity of a human heart to love.

With so many people needing medical attention, we don't have much leisure time to sightsee. Traumatic arthritis from hard labor is common in both the young and the old, as are gastrointestinal problems from malnutrition and infectious causes, drug resistant tuberculosis, and high maternal and infant mortality related to reversible causes of bleeding and infection. While high-tech medical equipment is not available to us, we can nevertheless do much with basic medicines and simple medical procedures to alleviate many of the ills. What is painful for me to experience is the fact that when we leave the area, they will return to having essentially no medical care. I made a commitment to return with provisions in 2007.

We work long hours, can't sleep comfortably in our flimsy pup tents which tend to get damp and icy inside, and the canned foods we are provided with are less than satisfying. I have had my Spam quota for a lifetime! But I am extremely happy. I feel alive, connected, and useful. The prayer flags are constantly fluttering in the prevailing winds. Villagers, young and old, hand carry personally carved prayer stones to one of many sacred spots in or around the village, while others perform 108 prostrations daily. I have never witnessed such a devotion to sacred activities on a daily basis. I have no specific thinking or feeling but a deep knowing bubbles to the surface. The intricate web of life, our connectedness to each and every living being, including the streams, rocks, and clouds, becomes clearly visible. I am reminded of a saying that we are all golden beings, wrapped up in dirty rags. In Tibet, I can see the golden being so much more clearly. My fears, anger, and grief have less of a grasp on my mind. Life is constantly unfolding right in front of me. Life is being experienced moment by moment, this vast, magical, mysterious, and powerful life.

As of this writing, I don't know how easy or difficult it is to get clothing and equipment brought into Shechen. I will explore the various possibilities of how we can benefit these resilient people who receive little or no government support. In the interim, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution for the people of Shechen. You can literally save many lives! A check can be made out to: Dilgo Khyentse Fellowship and mailed to me at PO Box 965, Great Barrington, MA 01230. I will collect the checks and forward them to the Shechen Project, which has an overhead of only 1 percent, thanks to the many volunteers who staff this important organization. I would like to raise enough funds to purchase in China a microscope to diagnose tuberculosis; a blood chemistry analyzer to assess liver, kidney, and other metabolic functions; a portable ultrasound machine to diagnose various chest, abdominal, and pelvic pathologies, as well as a portable X-ray machine. Once the medical clinic is up and running, it will be much easier to get volunteers to come to Shechen and provide ongoing medical care. In gratitude,

— Philip Bhark, M.D. FACC

Sandisfield Arts Center Opening for Season

The Sandisfield Arts Center welcomes back two popular performers to their Performance Hall for a season-opening performance on Saturday, April 14 at 8 p.m.—the British soprano Rachel Luxon and the Arron Chamber Ensemble, featuring piano and strings.

Luxon, known for her beautiful voice and exceptional range, has performed operatic and musical roles, as well as solo recitals all over Europe and across the U.S.

Luxon will be accompanied by the Arron Chamber Ensemble. The scheduled repertoire includes classical composers such as Rachmaninov, Strauss, Williams, Beethoven, Pleyel, and Brahms.

The virtuosic sound of the Arron Chamber Ensemble is a product of an accomplished array of international musicians from the U.S. and Asia. Members include violinist Abraham Appleman, cellist Edward Arron, violist Ronald Arron and pianist Jeewon Park.

Tickets are $20. For reservations, call 413-258-4100. The historic Sandisfield Arts Center is located at 5 Hammertown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield.

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School District News

To the Editor:

I would like to commend the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen for initiating the "Community Conversations" in preparation to working on the town Master Plan. I attended the first meeting to discuss the Monterey School, and as always when we Montereyans get together, the conversation was both lively and thoughtful. Clearly, those of us who attended that meeting are quite passionate about our little school.

I do need to make some corrections to Maggie's otherwise thorough report. The School Committee has not proposed consolidation of the outlying schools. We also are having conversations with all interested parties throughout the District. (See minutes of School Committee Meeting of December 7, 2006, by going to sbrsd.org and looking under School Committee, Archives) A meeting with the Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee and the towns of Egremont and Monterey took place the evening of March 22, 2007, to discuss specific recommendations for repair and maintenance of these two school buildings. The public should know that the fate of Egremont School, Monterey School, and New Marlborough Central lies in the hands of the voters of each of the respective towns. Simply put, the town in which a school lies and only that town can vote to close a school. The School Committee would only vote to accept the town's vote.

The information regarding the occupancy of the Mt. Everett campus was given by Selectman Jon Sylbert.

The $400,000 ± repair/maintenance estimate is over a 15-year period with the majority of work falling in to a 1–7 year period. The estimates are just that–*estimates*. The engineering firm, EDM, did a through evaluation of the Monterey School building. Many of their recommendations make sense. Some are certainly over the top, such as the $70,000 elevator. I think it's safe to say we won't be installing an elevator in that building any time soon. Deduct that figure from the $400,000 and we're now down to $330,000. The point, of course, is to illustrate that these numbers are not static and that there is much that can be eliminated outright.

Safety issues that were identified in the report were addressed by a) fixing, b) inspection by appropriate contractors, c) inspection or discussion with the town Building Commissioner. Safety of the children and adults in our buildings will always come first.

I urge everyone to avail themselves of the school website, sbrsd.org. New Marlborough Central also has its own site sbrsd.org/nmc/home.htm. There is a wealth of information contained in both. Read about what is going on in the District. Attend the many public activities. Come to a School Committee meeting. The next scheduled meeting is April 12 at New Marlborough Central, starting at 6 p.m.

— Deborah D. Mielke
School Committee Representative

ॐ

Art School Road Inn

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to correct some reports in a few issues prior to March 2007 of the *Monterey News* following Select Board meetings late 2006 and early 2007 regarding The Art School Road Inn. As owners of the property, we are very concerned that the status of the Inn has not been accurately reported.

We are also concerned about some errors in facts as they were reported in the *Monterey News* regarding our proposed endeavor. To date, no business of this kind has existed at our home. While it is true that we have, over the past year, been seeking guidance from Pete Kolodziej and Don Torrico about requirements for opening such an Inn, we have not yet opened a business. An ad was misquoted, implying that we had accommodations for up to 10 people, when we were referring to events we plan to organize at other locations. We submitted a preliminary proposal for the Inn and are working out the details with Don Torrico and Pete Kolodziej.

The reports also implied that we were operating without obtaining required permits, which is completely false. At best we have begun to explore marketing options and experiment with designs for a website and signs in advance of opening. As the town bylaws state, we are by right permitted to rent rooms, without a permit, but we have not done that either. It was also reported that Mr. Torrico and Mr. Kolodziej were "denied access," however, the report did not also include the fact that the Inn was not yet operating, and therefore no access for inspection was necessary. Mr. Torrico said at the meeting with the Select Board on March 26th that he has always been under the impression that the Inn was not yet operating and that any statements to the contrary reported were erroneous or taken out of context. Since we were, and still are, a private residence, we are entitled to the same privacy regarding permits as any other homeowner in Monterey until an Inn is in operation.

We have a civic duty to ask that our interests and pursuits be protected by our public servants and officials whose salaries we pay with our tax dollars. We believe Mr. Torrico wishes to enforce the State's

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building code and as homeowners, we support him in his efforts. We also support him in his attempts to prevent violations by contractors by focusing on the State's requirements for HICs who are responsible for operating according to regulations. The Health Department reports on such activities by naming the contractors when they fail to apply for required permits, and this is in keeping with MA General Law c. 142A. We encourage Mr. Torrico to do the same.

We hope this letter clarifies and puts to rest any questions regarding the current status of The Art School Road Inn. We would like to have the opportunity to announce the opening in a future edition of the *Monterey News*. Then, and ONLY then, will the Inn be operating.

— L. Catullo-Roberts

We Do NOT Need a Cell Tower!

To the Editor:

Yes, unfortunately someone died because they could not reach help off the NYS Thruway. Wasn't there a call box 1/10 of a mile away, isn't that what they are for?

It is this hysteria and exact argument the cell tower companies have used throughout the U.S. to force small communities to accept cell tower placement and its radiation. In my New York community one of their arguments for putting a tower up in the middle of a college campus and several hundred feet from the dormitories was "that people could get cell service in their basements, in case of emergency." Big cell business doesn't care about your health or mine. As a further example, lately a site management company hired by the cell companies has been contacting residents along Mt. Hunger Road to see if someone would allow them to place a tower on their property. This is right in the middle of a densely packed residential neighborhood. Are they crazy?

Most of us come to the Berkshires to retreat from the hectic world of everyday life in or around a big city. We decompress in the peacefulness of the natural beauty that surrounds this wonderful place. We don't get cell service here, which means we won't get disturbed while having a conversation with a neighbor or meeting a new friend at the General Store. Wouldn't it be great to be sitting at Lad's beach or in the General Store listening to everyone talk on their cells? Isn't that what we strive to get away from up here? What good is eating natural and exercising if you're going to do it inside of a large microwave oven. Currently we are not bombarded with cellular EMF radiation in Monterey. Who in their right mind would want this type of exposure?

Recent studies and even an industry whistle blower have released studies on the dangers of cell phones and tower radiation. If you need a good resource look up http://www.quantumbalancing.com/news/newcelldangers.htm or pick up the book *Cell Phones: Invisible Hazards in the Wireless Age: An Insider's Alarming Discoveries about Cancer and Genetic Damage* (Carroll and Graf, 2001).

If you care about the health of this community, your children, grandchildren and preserving this amazing way of life, please do not allow a cell phone tower to be put in Monterey.

— Dean Lombardo

Brush Burning Ends April 30

Each year, the state allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshals Office, DEP, and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734.** Leave your name, phone number, and address.
- Residents must call on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only.
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m. and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable
- No burning within 75 ft. of a building.
- Have a method of extinguishment and tools available.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day.
- Burning season will not be extended.

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Tales from the General Store
12 Sandwiches to Go … and Go

This story has been making the rounds in Monterey for the past week. (It was also on the front page of the Berkshire Eagle *on Friday, March 30.) Like most stories it evolves with the telling and retelling. Here's a version.*

On a recent morning Sammy Brown, music and deli maestro at the Monterey General Store, took a call about 11:30 from a woman ordering twelve sandwiches, which she said she would pick up around noon. The caller was obviously familiar with the menu since she knew the names and ingredients of the sandwiches she ordered. It was the busiest time of the day at the deli counter, but this was a big order, so Sammy set to.

Noon rolled around and no one showed up to pick up the lovely sandwiches. Then 12:30, 1:00, 1:30—still no show. When Kenn Basler, the General Store proprietor and general raconteur, came in a little before 2:00, Sammy told him the sad tale. Kenn, a little nonplussed and facing a sizable minus in a meager winter/early spring stretch for the store, was able, using the wonders of modern technology and a little known clause of the Patriot Act, to track down the telephone number of the caller, which he promptly called. All he got was an answering machine, onto which he deposited a suitably pithy message.

A few minutes later the phone rang. It was the woman, apologetic and flustered. She said that she would be right in to pick up the sandwiches, but that she was a little lost. Could Kenn give directions?

Kenn: "Sure, where are you now?"

"Well, I'm on Pacific Coast Highway heading south … just passed Main Street, but it appears to be all residential …"

Kenn: "… Okay, it's easy. Just take the next left and go three thousand miles …"

Modern times: traveler approaching the other Monterey (okay, they did have the name first and Clint Eastwood was the mayor and they got Pebble Beach, but we got the General Store and the turkeys and Lake Garfield) uses her laptop to google (nice verb, that; sounds like something you do with your sweetie) Monterey eateries to find a deli, and, hey, right there at the top is the Monterey General Store, with such a delectable sandwich selection—and who reads the fine print …

One could almost make a Modern Times fable out of this—you know, how we're all sort of, like, connected but none of us knows where we really are …

— Will Marsh

Coda: When the writer stopped by the store last week and commented to Kate Basler what a great story it was, Kate said, "I'm so tired of hearing that story!"

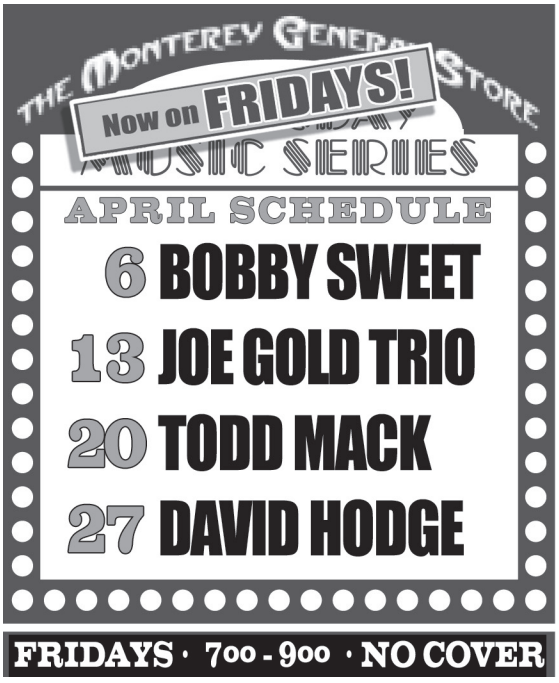
Library Recent Acquisitions

DVDs
Happy Feet
The Nativity Story
Blood Diamond
Bridesmaid
Eragon
National Geographics:
Inside North Korea
Relentless Enemies
Emperors of the Ice

Adult Fiction
Deep Storm, Lincoln Child
Scavenger, David Morrell
Trouble, Jesse Kellerman
Magic City, James Hall
Puss 'n Cahoots, Rita Mae Brown
Whitethorn Woods, Maeve Binchy
Dry Ice, Stephen White
19 Minutes, Jodi Picoult

Adult Nonfiction
Art of Aging, Sherwin Nuland
Gospel of Food, Barry Glassner

Children
Out of the Ballpark, Alex Rodriguez
Forever in Blue, Ann Brashares
Wag in Trail, Lois Ehlert
Good Day, Kevin Henkes
Sacagawea, Sneed Collard
Mysterious Benedict Society, Trenton Lee Stewart



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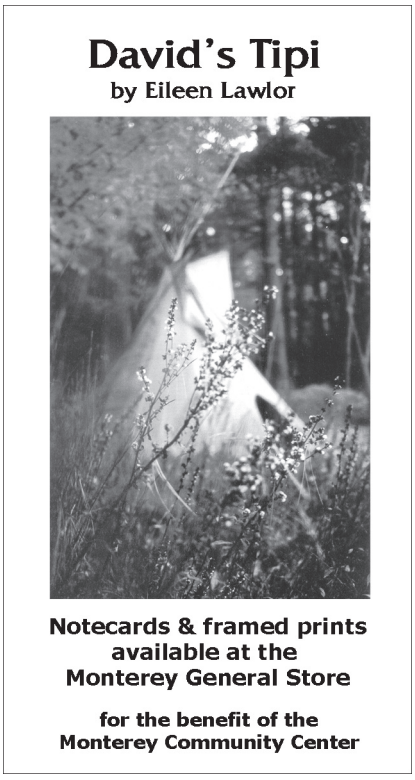


Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall.

Friday, April 6: First session of six-session drama workshop for Monterey children, ages 9–14, 4–5:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Led by Meredyth Babcock of Marmalade Productions. For information call Franny Huberman, 528-5414.

Saturday, April 7: "Hidden Photographs," talk by photographer Arthur Hillman, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. See p. 18.

Sunday, April 8: Easter Sunday. Easter Egg hunt, 2 p.m., Monterey Library lawn. Sponsored by Coffee Club.

Tuesday, April 10 (and every second Tuesday): Monterey Blue Grass Jam, 6–8:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Open to all skill levels; for information call Jeff Litishin, 413-528-1343.

Wednesday, April 11: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Ellen Pearson will talk about her recent stay in China. See p. 15.

Thursday, April 12: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices.

Saturday, April 14:

Last day to register to vote in May 5 Town election. See p. 14.

Denise Andrus presents program for children, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Forum on the health and environmental effects of cell towers and other wireless technologies, 1:00–5:00 p.m., Mt. Everett High School, Sheffield. Adults $5, students free. Info 413-644-3209.

British soprano Rachel Luxon and Arron Chamber Ensemble, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $20; for reservations call 413-258-4100. See p. 23.

Tuesday, April 17: Free health screening and insurance enrollment, Community Health program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall Meeting Room. Call 413-644-0104 ext. 16 for more information.

Thursday, April 19:

Town Meeting Warrant finalized.

Public hearing by Select Board to see if the Town will exercise its first-refusal option to purchase land on Tyringham Road, 7 p.m., Town Hall. See p. 4.

First of four Thursday night ballroom dance classes 7–9 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. Free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 19.

Saturday, April 21: Signs of Spring Walk, 9:30 a.m., Dry Hill Reservation, New Marlborough. Free, call 413-268-8219 to register. See p. 20.

Wednesday, April 25: Candidates' Forum with candidates in contested races in May 5th town election. See p. 8.

Friday, April 27: Informational meeting about Annual Town Meeting Warrant items, 7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

The Observer
February 26 – March 25

High temp. (3/15)	67°
Low temp. (3/6)	-8°
Avg. high temp.	36.7°
Avg. low temp.	15.4°
Avg. temp.	26°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	5.37in.
Snowfall	29.8in.
Season snowfall total	65.8in.

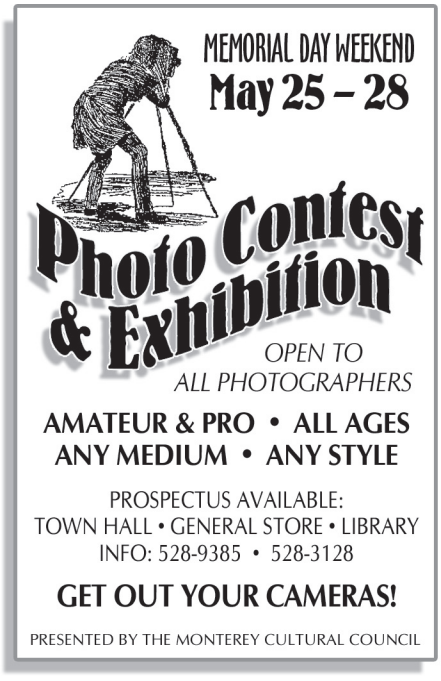
Saturday, April 28:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Fern Bradley. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Wine-tasting benefit for Friends of Yanner Park, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., 3 New Hartford Road, off Rt. 57 in Sandisfield Center. $40. Pre-registration required, 258-4904.

Tuesday, May 1: Deadline for McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship applications. See p. 14.

Saturday, May 5: Town Meeting and town election, Monterey Firehouse.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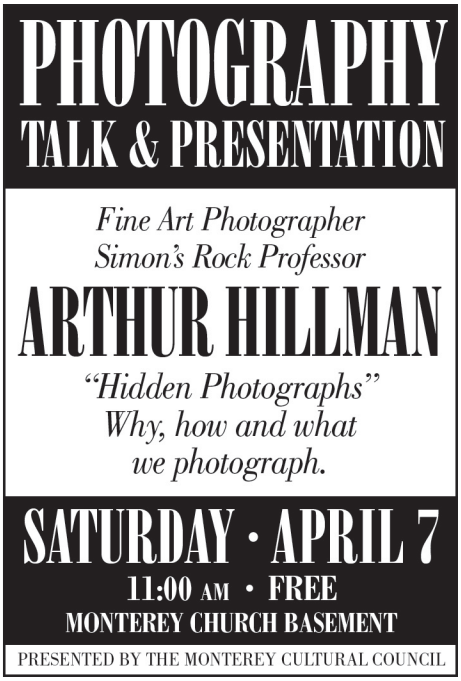

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Arnow, pp. 19, 21, 25; George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18; Josefine Persson, p. 20.

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